

Wisconsin Forestry Notes

March 2006

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

DNR recently honored 162 communities for achieving Tree City USA status in 2005. According to DNR's urban forestry coordinator Dick Rideout, benefits from trees to communities include energy savings, storm water runoff and air pollution reduction, and increased property values - in addition to the psychological and social benefits.

DNR honors Tree City USA communities

Representatives of Tree City USA communities across Wisconsin gathered at Madison's Monona Terrace Convention Center on March 9 to recognize Wisconsin's 162 Tree City USA communities and 12 Tree Line USA utilities. Wisconsin ranks third among states with its 162 Tree City USA communities. The group includes five new Tree City USA cities (DeForest, Elkhorn, Johnson Creek, Mineral Point and Washburn) and 24 existing Tree City USA communities that received growth awards. To be recognized as a Tree City USA, a community must have a designated tree board or forestry department, an annual forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and a tree care ordinance. The community also must host an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation.

Urban forests provide important environmental, social and economic benefits to Wisconsin and are home to over 80 percent of Wisconsin's population. The benefits of urban forests were recently highlighted in [new research](#) published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, which found that Wisconsin communities receive three dollars in benefits for every one dollar spent planting and maintaining community trees. Wisconsin has a total urban forest area of about 1.7 million acres – almost 5 percent of the total land area.

A list of Wisconsin's 162 Tree City USA communities and 12 Tree Line USA utilities can be found on the DNR Web site along with a photos of the Tree City USA award winners:

http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/Uf/awareness/tc_usa_Current.html

The keynote speaker at the March 9th awards banquet was Madison arborist R. Bruce Allison, author of two recent books: *Wisconsin's Champion Trees* and *Every Root an Anchor* - a book of fascinating stories about famous and historic trees in Wisconsin that is posted on the DNR Website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Publications/everyrootananchor.html>

For more information about the Tree City USA program or about Wisconsin's urban forestry program, contact [Richard Rideout](#) at (608) 267-0843.

DNR issues forest tree improvement report

The three Wisconsin DNR forest nurseries (located at Hayward, Wisconsin Rapids and Boscobel) produced and distributed 14.6 million tree seedlings in 2005, reforesting almost 18,000 acres of public and private lands in Wisconsin. The use of genetically adapted and improved seed remains a critical part of this annual reforestation effort. Read about the latest Wisconsin advances in tree improvement for species like eastern white pine, jack pine, red pine, white spruce, northern red oak and black walnut in the "Wisconsin Forest Tree Improvement Program - 2005 Annual Report" available online at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Publications/tip/2005_TIP_Report.pdf or by contacting WDNR Forest Geneticist and Nursery Specialist [Greg Edge](#) at (608) 785-9011.

DNR maintains seed orchards totalling 176 acres to continually improve the stock produced at the three state nurseries. Last year the nurseries grew 14.6 million tree seedlings for reforestation.

Hurricane debris mulch not a threat here

Mulch made from hurricane damaged trees is quarantined and being deposited in Louisiana landfills.

The Division of Forestry has received numerous questions from Wisconsin residents concerned about termite threat from mulch resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Recent e-mails have stated that mulch originating from hurricane-caused debris may be hosting Formosan termites. However, according to UW-Extension entomologist Phil Pellitteri, the species in question is subterranean and subtropical. As such, it would not survive long out of its habitat and it is likely that it would not survive the chipping process or our winter temperatures. Furthermore, there are two quarantines in place limiting the movement of this debris out of the hurricane area, according to WDNR Forest Health Coordinator Jane Cummings Carlson.

Assistant commissioner for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture Matthew Keppinger says that all woody debris in the quarantined areas is going to an approved landfill within the designated quarantine area. He said, "There are a multitude of state and federal agencies that are looking at this debris every day as it is deposited into these landfills. The contractors mulching and hauling the debris know the regulations and are abiding by them according to the quarantine requirements. If there is anyone with knowledge of debris moving out of a quarantine area, they should contact our 24-hour hotline at 225-925-3763. These are serious allegations and will be taken seriously."

If you have questions, contact [Jane Cummings Carlson](#) at 608-275-3273.

Conference focuses on Mississippi River

A new partnership formed to build a watershed approach for forestry efforts along the Upper Mississippi River met to address water pollution, loss of bird habitat, forest fragmentation and loss of forests.

The Upper Mississippi Forestry Partnership organized a stakeholders meeting in Dubuque, Iowa on February 28 through March 1, 2006. The Upper Mississippi Forestry Partnership is a cooperative venture of Northeastern Area of the USDA Forest Service and the state foresters of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin that was created to build a watershed approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi River watershed. The theme for the recent meeting was "setting a course for action." The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize participants with what has been done by the joint venture so far, attract long-term commitment for the project and to create synergies and increase efficiencies among the partners. The seventy-five meeting participants from six partner states, federal agencies and nonprofits developed actions for the next three years around these four issues: addressing water pollution, loss of migratory bird habitat, forest fragmentation and the loss of forests. Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the USDA Forest Service, welcomed participants and challenged the group to consider the important ecological services provided by the forests in the watershed. A request for proposals through the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation was also announced at the meeting. For more information, contact [Samuel Osinde](#) at 608-785-9013.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
Phone: 608-267-7494 [Paul DeLong](#), Chief State Forester [Kirsten Held](#), Editor

To add or delete yourself from this distribution list, send an e-mail with "Wisconsin Forestry Notes" in the subject line to: forestry.webmail@dnr.state.wi.us
